Message Text

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R 212152Z JAN 77 FM SECSTATE WASHDC TO AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EGEN, EFIN, CG

SUBJECT: ZAIRE DEBT RESCHEDULING

REF: KINSHASA 0434

1. WE CONCUR WITH YOUR VIEW AS EXPRESSED REFTEL THAT NEXT MEETING OF PARIS CLUB SHOULD NOT TAKE PLACE UNTIL GOZ AND IMF HAVE CONCLUDED AGREEMENT ON SECOND CREDIT TRANCHE AND ATTENDANT STABILIZATION PROGRAM. WE ALSO BELIEVE THAT IMF REPORT ON ZAIRE WILL BE USEFUL BASIS FOR PARIS CLUB DISCUSSION ON ZAIRE'S ECONOMIC PROSPECTS.

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- 2. WE HAVE REVIEWED YOUR REQUEST TO DELAY BILATERAL 1976 DEBT AGREEMENT, BUT HAVE CONCLUDED THAT WE SHOULD ATTEMPT TO NEGOTIATE A BILATERAL AGREEMENT AT THE EARLIEST POSSIBLE TIME. AMONG FACTORS CONSIDERED ARE:
- --THE IMPORTANCE OF REGULARIZING 1975 AND 1976 DEBT SERVICE ARREARAGES. IN ABSENCE OF AN AGREEMENT, WE WOULD HAVE TO

CONTINUE REPORTING ARREARAGES TO A CONGRESS WHICH HAS BECOME INCREASINGLY SENSITIVE TO ISSUE OF DELINQUENT DEBT.

- --ALL OTHER MAJOR CREDITORS WILL HAVE CONCLUDED A 1976
 AGREEMENT PRIOR TO THE NEXT MEETING OF THE PARIS CLUB.
 --THE UNCERTAINTIES REGARDING THE TIMING OF A 1977 PARIS
 CLUB AGREEMENT. WHILE A MEETING NOW APPEARS LIKELY FOR
 MARCH, THERE IS NO ASSURANCE A GOZ-IMF AGREEMENT CAN BE
 CONCLUDED BEFORE THEN. THERE IS ALSO THE POSSIBILITY THAT
 MORE THAN ONE PARIS CLUB MEETING WILL BE REQUIRED BEFORE
 FINAL AGREEMENT IS REACHED. THUS POSTPONEMENT OF OUR BILATERAL RISKS RESULTING IN PROLONGED DELAY IN REGULARIZING
 1975/76 DEBT.
- 3. SEPTEL FOLLOWS REGARDING US-GOZ BILATERAL AGREEMENT.
- 4. WE WOULD WELCOME ECON COUNSELOR NETTLES AS MEMBER USG DELEGATION TO NEXT PARIS CLUB. HABIB

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